

CLAIMS

1. A wheel rim comprising:
 - (a) a circular band; and
 - (b) at least one track located on the circular band capable of being operatively coupled to respective ends of at least two spokes.
2. The wheel rim of claim 1 wherein the end of the spokes are capable of sliding relative to the track.
3. The wheel rim of claim 1 wherein the track comprises a groove capable of receiving and retaining a plurality of carriages operatively coupled to respective ends of the spokes.
4. The wheel rim of claim 3 wherein each carriage is operatively coupled to a threaded end of the spoke(s).
5. The wheel rim of claim 4 wherein each carriage comprises a spoke nipple.
6. The wheel rim of claim 3 wherein each carriage is operatively coupled to a non-threaded end of the spokes.
7. The wheel rim of claim 6 wherein the non-threaded end of the spokes comprises a hook or flat head.
8. The wheel rim of claim 2 wherein the track comprises a bar adapted to retain the end of the spokes.
9. The wheel rim of claim 8 wherein the bar is adapted to retain a hook end of the spokes.
10. The wheel rim of claim 4 wherein each carriage is operatively coupled to a spoke nipple.

11. The wheel rim of claim 2 wherein the track comprises an outward extension capable of operatively coupling to a carriage.

12. The wheel rim of claim 11 wherein outward extension comprises a T-shape capable of mating with the carriage.

5 13. The wheel rim of claim 1 wherein the track is located on an inner surface of the circular band.

14. The wheel rim of any one of claims 1 wherein the track comprises at least one channel located on each of two opposed side surfaces of the circular band.

10 15. The wheel rim of claim 4 comprising a spacer carriage locatable on the track between adjacent carriages operatively coupled to a spoke nipple.

16. The wheel rim of claim 4 wherein the plurality of carriages are operatively coupled to a strip.

15 17. The wheel rim of claim 4 wherein the plurality of carriages are operatively coupled to the strip by an adhesive.

18 18. The wheel rim of any one of claims 1 wherein the circular band comprises a channel located on an outer surface adapted to retain a tire.

19 19. ~~20.~~ A wheel comprising:

20 (1) a rim comprising:

(i) a circular band; and

(ii) at least one track located on the circular band;

(2) a plurality of spokes operatively coupled to the track and extending inwardly from the rim; and

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(3) a hub located central of the wheel and operatively coupled to the rim by said plurality of spokes.

20 ~~21~~ A method for operatively coupling a plurality of spokes to a wheel rim, including the step of operatively coupling ends of a plurality of 5 spokes to a track located on an inner surface of a circular band of the rim, wherein the end of the spokes when operatively coupled to the track are slidable relative thereto. 20

21 ~~22~~ The method of claim ~~21~~ further including the step of operatively coupling the spoke to the carriage via a spoke nipple and operatively 10 coupling the carriage to the track. 21

22 ~~23~~ The method of claim ~~22~~ further including the step of attaching one or more spacer carriages to the track between adjacent carriages. 22

23 ~~24~~ The method of claim ~~23~~ further including the step of attaching an opposite end of the spoke not attached to the carriage to a hub.